

John, Part 17: Do you really believe?

100s of millions of Hindu pilgrims take a plunge in India's sacred Ganges river to wash away lifetime of sins.

Jesus just finished ministering to the woman at the well in Samaria.

The crowds of people came out of the city to see Jesus for themselves.

John 4:40–42 (NIV84) So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And ***because of his words many more became believers.*** They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now ***we have heard*** for ourselves, and ***we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.***”

These are important words.

The Samaritans believed because they heard what Jesus said.

No record is given about Christ's message to the them. What He said was enough for the whole city to believe. They believed that He is the Savior of the world.

Their faith stood on the value of the words that Christ spoke.

After the two days of tremendous ministry in Samaria, Christ led His disciples back to Galilee.

On His way back Jesus pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.

John 4:45 (NIV84) When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, for they also had been there.

The last time He was in Jerusalem He was at the Feast of Passover.

At that time, He cleansed the Temple of the money changers. Many people saw the miraculous signs He was doing and believed in His name. (*John 2:23*)

Nicodemus believed when he saw the signs that Jesus did at the feast.

The Galileans were at the feast.

Jesus knows what is in the heart of men.

The people in Galilee welcomed Him because they had seen His miracles.

Many people came out to see the Lord's miracles. Their enthusiasm for the miracle worker did not indicate they had faith in Him. He ministered often in their Synagogues. The people were amazed and astounded at His knowledge, wisdom, and miracles.

They were still offended at Him.

John 4:46–47 (NKJV) So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.

The man knew that Jesus had a reputation of performing great miracles.

Jesus had already demonstrated miraculous power.

The man was desperate for answers for his son who lay sick in Capernaum.

This royal official came from Judea to Galilee and begged Jesus to come down and heal his son. His son had been sick. He had exhausted every other method to solve the problem. Failure to solve his problem drove him from Capernaum to the village

of Cana, 20 to 25 miles away. He was hoping that the Healer would save his son from death.

John 4:48 (NKJV) Then Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.”

Everyone wants to see a miracle.

It is exciting to see someone supernaturally healed in the name of Jesus.

Jesus is more interested in the man's faith than the healing of his son.

Faith in Christ must not rest on healings, miracles, or supernatural events.

Whether they see a miracle or not, Jesus is still the Messiah.

This is crucial for our lives as well.

Faith in miracles is not enough.

We want to see miracles, but greater than miracles is a faith in Christ that sustains us through life.

Listen to this father's appeal.

John 4:49-50 (NIV) The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”

Jesus replied, “You may go. Your son will live.” The man took Jesus at his word and departed.

Did you notice that Jesus did not do what this man wanted Him to do?

It sounds like the Lord dismissed him.

The man wanted Jesus to come down before his child died.

Jesus said: “Go your way; your son lives”

The man took action on the basis of the word of Jesus.

He did not require another sign, wonder, or miracle.

When the Shunammite woman's son died she told Elisha:

“As certainly as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.”

This man is demonstrating bold faith in the word of Christ.

This nobleman had traveled 25 miles to find Jesus. He came there to Galilee to bring Jesus back to Capernaum. He was desperate for a miracle for his son. All he could do was plead for was mercy, for his child was at the point of death.

If he believed that Jesus could make a difference in Capernaum, he must also believe Him now in Cana.

So he took Jesus at His word and left.

Jesus didn't have to go with him.

The man took Jesus at His word.

Before he heard any report, He believed Jesus' word.

Do you know about the trial of your faith?

You pray and then you have to exercise faith.

You have to hold on to what Jesus has said.

You have to believe in Jesus.

You have to believe His word.

You have to believe that what He said is true.

On the way back the official must have pondered Jesus' promise every step of his journey.

He could have been saying:

"Is my son better?"

"What am I going to find when I get home?"

I believe he was saying:

"I am going home to see my son."

"He was sick when I left him, but I believe he is better."

John 4:51-52 (NIV) While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour."

John 4:53-54 (NIV84) Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and all his household believed. This was the second miraculous sign that Jesus performed, having come from Judea to Galilee.

His servants met him with good news.

The fever broke and His boy was living.

The healing was no accident.

It occurred when Jesus said: "Go your way: Your son lives."

This man believed what Jesus said, and his son was healed.

If you are going to receive anything from the Lord, you must have faith in Him.

Do you know that Jesus' word is powerful to save, heal and deliver?

Do you really believe?

His miracles testify that He is who He said He is.

Jesus is still the Son of God even if we don't see a miracle.

Believe in Him for who He is.

Jesus is the Son of God.

Your faith must not waver with what you see.

It must stand on what He says.

This is good news.

Jesus' power is able to save from a great distance.

His Word has power to do the work.